

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 2 and 3 are now present in this application. Claim 2 is independent.

Claim 1 has been canceled and 2 has been re-written in independent form. No new matter is involved.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 1,591,678 to Garris in view of U.S. Patent 1,943,893 to Johnson and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,957,125 to Yaneza. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claim 1 has been canceled.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3

The Office Action indicates that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter and states that claims 2 and 3 would be allowed if they were re-written in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable because claim 2 has been re-written in independent form and because claim 3 depends from claim 2.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8076, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

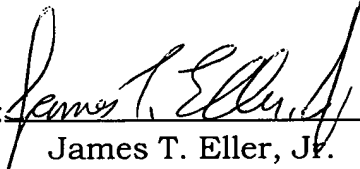
Application No.: 10/671,507
Art Unit 3754

Attorney Docket No. 4653-0105P
Reply to December 12, 2005 Office Action
Page 5 of 5

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees..

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No.: 39,538

JTE/RJW:mmi 

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
Telephone: (703) 205-8000